Kentucky e-Health Network Board
August 5, 2009
Minutes

Meeting No. 32	**Capitol Annex – Room 131**	**3:00 pm – 4:30 pm**

Board Members in Attendance:
Dr. Larry Cook, Co-Chair – University of Louisville
Dr. Carol Steltenkamp, Co-Chair – University of Kentucky
Phil Baughn - Commonwealth Office of Technology
Dr. David Bensema – Kentucky Medical Association
David Bolt – Physician Practice Managers
Ron Carson, Proxy for Robert King – Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Murray Clark – Kentucky Hospital Association
Senator Julie Denton – Senate
Dr. William Hacker - Kentucky Department for Public Health
Janie Miller – Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Larry Mott – Business with e-Strategy
Warren Nash, Proxy for Deborah Clayton – Kentucky Department of Commercialization & Innovation
Al Perkins, Proxy for Sharon Clark – Kentucky Department of Insurance
Dr. Kimberly Williams – Kentucky Medical Association

Absent:
Rep. Bob DeWeese – House of Representatives
Betsy Johnson - Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services
Bruce Klockars – Kentucky Hospital Association & Rural Hospitals
Senator Katie Stine – Senate President Pro Tem
Rep. Tommy Thompson – House of Representative

Staff:
Barbara Baker - Policy Advisor
April Smith - Project Manager
Donna Veno – Executive Assistant

Welcome and Introductions
The meeting was called to order by Dr. Carol Steltenkamp, Co-Chair. Dr. Steltenkamp introduced Phil Baughn who serves as the Commonwealth's Chief Information Officer and Commissioner of the Commonwealth Office of Technology.

Dr. William Hacker reported on his involvement in discussions with the Centers for Disease Control on tracking H1N1 emergency room visits. Dr. Steltenkamp announced several board resignations. Barbara Haunz Asher, representing citizens-at-large, Dr. Ford Brewer, representing the Associated Industries of Kentucky, and Dr. Jack Lord, representing a business of health insurance employed by a company headquartered in Kentucky, have all resigned.

Review and Approval of May Board Minutes
Dr. David Bensema moved to approve the May board minutes; David Bolt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Communications

Overview of the Health Information Technology Policy Committee Activities
Rick Chapman, Chief Administrative and Information Officer of Kindred Healthcare headquartered in Louisville KY, presented an overview of the activities of the policy committee which includes part of

the ARRA Stimulus Bill and HITECH dealing with the funding of electronic health records for physicians offices and hospitals. The biggest barrier to the implementation of information systems in the healthcare arena is funding due to the expense, complexity and processes involved. Reimbursements and incentives are not forthcoming in the reimbursement programs.   HITECH removes this barrier because of the funding component for implementation and ongoing reimbursement.

ARRA/HITECH funded the following: (1) Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology; (2) regional extension centers, which will provide training/support for HIT; (3) state health information exchanges;   (4) infrastructure, including some grants for health IT; (5) comparative effectiveness research; (6) Medicare incentives for physician practices and acute care hospitals for Meaningful Use of certified EHR, exchange of health information and data reporting; and (7) Medicaid Incentives. Other providers and regulations on Medicare incentive payments will be addressed in a report to Congress by HHS in June 2010.

ARRA/HITECH created two federal advisory committees: the HIT Policy Committee will make recommendations on policy framework; and the HIT Standards Committee will make recommendations on standards, implementation specifications, and certification criteria.

The criteria for Meaningful Use includes HITECH Policies in 2009, Meaningful Use criteria to include capturing and sharing of data in 2011, advanced care processes with decision support in 2013, and improved outcomes in 2015. A sub-workgroup is working on certification, adoption and workforce. Concerns have been raised over only one certifying group that is not funded and has been too bias. The initial recommendation of the Certification Group is that the criteria be separated from the testing. An accreditation body should be established that would certify the certifiers (testers). Adoption and workforce will be addressed once the certification process recommendations for 2009 are completed. A third workgroup, Health Information Exchange, provides the overall framework for health information exchange and initial recommendations expected in August 2009.

Update on Developments Regarding ARRA Stimulus Bill
Cabinet for Health and Family Services Secretary Janie Miller reported on the developments regarding the ARRA Stimulus Bill as they relate to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Initial Kentucky HIE funding included the Medicaid Transformation Grant (MTG) awarded February 2007 with an award of $4,987,583, with remaining funding of $4,499,292 at the end of the second quarter of 2009. This funding must be used by March 31, 2010 or refunded to the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS). Additional funding opportunities will be forthcoming through the ARRA Stimulus Bill. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued on December 15, 2008 and closed February 13, 2009. Kentucky HIE core components funded by the MTG include: Master Patient/Person Index (MPI); Record Locator Service (RLS); Security; Provider/User Authentication; Logging and Audits; and Alerts.

Prior to ARRA, efforts around health information exchange and health information technology were primarily voluntary, state led and directed by state initiatives. After ARRA, there will be a move to government-led, incentive-based efforts with funding opportunities. Because of the new role that states will play, states must develop policy (ies) to ensure the protection and privacy of medical records, and also lead the way for broadband development and planning. It is important for all providers to be able to participate in the incentives and funding opportunities and to avoid the penalties from lack of participation in either electronic health records or the exchange provided by this framework.

ARRA provides substantial resources for planning, deployment and use, sets standards for health information technology and exchange, and requires the development of criteria for certification of electronic health records. ARRA expands the role of states in fostering health information exchange and the adoption of electronic health records. The bill states that these goals are to be achieved through financial incentives or funding, education and training, and a call to states to lead and coordinate actions.

Planning, development and use of health information exchange will fall to states and include grants for health information exchange planning and implementation, Medicare and Medicaid incentives to providers for use of electronic health records and exchange of data, and federal adoption and use of

certified technology and standards. Health information exchange planning and development will come through the Office of the National Coordinator through Planning and Implementation Grants. Health IT Extension Programs will be issued through the Office of the National Coordinator. Workforce Training Grants and New Technology Research and Development Grants will come through Health and Human Services and other agencies. The US Department of Commerce has $4.3B for broadband and the USDA has $2.5B for distance learning/telehealth grants. Guidance and funding has been an issue for federally qualified health centers for construction, renovation, equipment, and acquisition of health information technology systems. Each state will be required to submit to the Office of the National Coordinator a comprehensive roadmap that encompasses health information exchange, electronic health record rollout (including Medicaid and Medicare incentives), and alignment with extension centers and broadband proposals. One cooperative agreement will exist between the Office of the National Coordinator and each state as this will be the mechanism used for HITECH funding for planning and implementation.

Priority Planning Objectives:
- Improve health care outcomes and reduce cost;
- Engage in an inclusive process that supports widespread EHR adoption and a robust, sustainable, and interoperable statewide health information exchange;
- Maximize Kentucky's access to critical ARRA stimulus funds to integrate and synchronize the planning and implementation of HIE, HIT, telehealth, broadband and provider incentive program components of the federal stimulus act;
- Ensure accountability and transparency in the expenditure of public funds; and,
- Improve public health through stronger public health program integration, bio-surveillance, rapid detection of emerging health threats, and emergency response capabilities.

CHFS Activities:
- Discussions with stakeholders;
- Examining existing information systems for relevance and readiness of health information exchange;
- Identifying cross-agency barriers for data sharing;
- Establishment of a Cabinet-wide Steering Committee;
- Reviewing privacy laws and standards;
- Monitoring other states' activities;
- Developing a Communication Strategy; and,
- Working collaboratively to support others who might apply.

A recent publication that evaluated different states and their activities on the total Stimulus Bill was reported on the ARRA.gov website; Kentucky was ranked 47th. Phil Baughn, Kentucky's Chief Information Officer, updated the Board on the state's broadband initiative. The state should be a facilitator to bring together non-state partners and anchor institutions such as medical facilities and libraries.

E-Health Summit
Barbara Baker reported that the e-Health Summit will take place on September 16, 2009 in conjunction with the Kentucky Medical Association's Annual Meeting. Information on the Summit will be distributed in the coming weeks.

Next Board Meeting
The next meeting of the board is scheduled for September 15, 2009 in conjunction with the e-Health Summit at the Hyatt Regency Louisville.

Submitted by Donna Veno
September 8, 2009